

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 5, 2021

Mr. Vance Stewart, III
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Mr. Stewart,

On behalf of our home state of North Carolina, we thank you and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for your commitment to coastal resilience. Through your support of our Coastal Storm Damage Reduction (CSDR) projects, we have long benefitted from protection and sustainability for our natural resources and our coastal infrastructure.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2020, enacted last December, authorized a 15-year extension for USACE's CSDR 50-year contract at Carolina Beach in New Hanover County (Division AA of P.L. 116-260). Likewise, the Post Authorization Change Report for Wrightsville Beach, which increased a 1986 construction cost capacity estimate providing for the CSDR's remaining term, was also authorized. As such, these projects retain the ability to compete for Federal funds to ensure the ongoing protection and well-being of our coastal resources. We are very proud of the environmental and economic benefits leveraged by and resulting from these CSDR projects, saving precious taxpayer dollars on the back end after natural disasters strike.

As you may know, funding for this year's CSDR maintenance events for Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach and Kure Beach were not included in the 2021 USACE Work Plan. Every 12 years, as is the case this year, these critical CSDR project cycles coincide, presenting a significant maintenance challenge if funding is not provided.

In acknowledgement and in support of these projects, the Wilmington District's proposal would meet our projects' maintenance needs and schedules while ensuring we meet our environmental commitments. We strongly support any and all efforts to secure funding for these very important projects.

While we understand you must make many difficult budget decisions each year, we urge your support and sign off on the Wilmington District's CSDR funding and implementation proposal. The continued success of our Southeastern North Carolina CSDR programs is critical to the environmental stewardship in the region as well as the economy given the number of small businesses and other community partners directly and indirectly affected. Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A black ink signature of Richard Burr, featuring a stylized 'R' and 'B'.

Richard Burr
United States Senator

A blue ink signature of Thom Tillis, written in a cursive style.

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

A blue ink signature of David Price, written in a cursive style.

David Price
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of David Rouzer, written in a cursive style.

David Rouzer
Member of Congress